



WEATHER CROP



Cooperating with the Florida Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services
1222 Woodward St., Orlando, FL 32803
(407) 648-6013 · (407) 648-6029 FAX · www.nass.usda.gov/fl

Week ending July 8, 2007

SCATTERED SHOWERS RAISED SOIL MOISTURE RATINGS

WEATHER SUMMARY: Scattered rains during the week of July 2 through 8 raised soil moisture ratings in most areas. Rainfall amounts ranged from a quarter inch or less in Alachua, Bronson, Live Oak, and Monticello, to over five inches in Brooksville, Daytona Beach, and Sebring. Most stations reported an inch or more of rain for the week. Temperatures at most of the major stations were normal. Daytime highs were in the 80s and 90s while nighttime lows were in the 60s and 70s. The Florida Department of Agriculture's Division of Forestry reported a total of 95 active wildfires on 98,912 acres as of July 8, 2007.

FIELD CROPS: Recent rainfall helped cotton, peanut, and hay growth in most Panhandle and northern Peninsula areas. In Jackson County, rain for the week ranged from two tenths to over three inches with 25 to 30 percent of the field crop area still under severe drought conditions. The rainfall increased peanut condition with ratings improving to 5% very poor, 20% poor, 35% fair, 20% good and 20% excellent. The recent rains greened hay fields but more rain is needed to ensure adequate growth. Dry conditions caused a substantial nut drop from pecan trees in Jefferson County. In Washington County, most field crop producers applied fertilizer to stimulate production and fight weed problems since herbicides were less effective on drought-stressed plants. The recent rains improved soil moisture with most ratings adequate. In Dade County, this week's significant rainfall led to minor flooding and standing water in many locations. In Hendry County, nearly daily rains raised water levels in ponds and canals. Marion and Hernando counties reported surplus soil moisture supplies. The scattered nature of the recent rain left some skipped areas, especially in the Panhandle and Big Bend area, with soil moisture rated very short to short.

Percentage of peanuts planted to date:		
This year	Last year	5-year average.
40	46	64

Moisture Rating	Topsoil			Subsoil		
	This week	Last week	Last year	This week	Last week	Last Year
	<i>Percent</i>					
Very short	10	44	23	25	46	22
Short	15	31	30	28	34	48
Adequate	72	24	45	45	19	27
Surplus	3	1	2	2	1	3

VEGETABLES: In Jefferson County, the watermelon harvest neared the end with some poor yields realized by growers. Tomato picking is nearly finished in the Quincy area. Okra harvesting continued in Dade County.

LIVESTOCK AND PASTURES: In the Panhandle, pasture condition was very poor to good with most in fair condition. Pastures were extremely short but responding to the rain. Most producers applied fertilizer to pasture to get more forage growth. Weed problems were severe in pastures as herbicides are not working well on drought-stressed plants. Hay and cattle feed was in short supply. Some cattle have been sold due to lack of forage and expensive hay. In the northern and central areas, pasture condition was poor to fair with most in fair condition. Pastures have greened greatly and have significant growth. In the southwest area, pasture condition was very poor to good with most in good condition. In Desoto County, daily rain improved pasture condition. In Hendry County, rainfall began to raise water levels in stock ponds. Pasture condition improved rapidly. In Okeechobee, pastures started to green up and grow. Many producers sold calves early to reduce the cows need for forage. Statewide, cattle condition ranged from very poor to good with most in fair condition.

Condition	Cattle		Pasture	
	This week	Last week	This week	Last week
	<i>Percent</i>			
Very poor	5	5	10	20
Poor	15	30	20	40
Fair	40	50	40	20
Good	40	15	25	15
Excellent	0	0	5	5

CITRUS: Thunderstorms and heavy showers developed early in the week, alleviating much of the dry surface conditions present across the citrus producing region. One to three inches of rain fell in a few hours in several areas on Tuesday and lighter rains continued for the next couple of days. Sebring had the most rainfall for the week at over five inches, followed by Ft. Pierce at over three and a half inches. Lakes, ponds, and general water reservoirs are beginning to refill following a dry spring and early summer season. High temperatures reached into the 90s in all areas with the highest recording in Lake Alfred at 95 degrees. Cultural practices include fertilizing, applications of summer oils, copper spraying, hedging, and resetting of young trees. The trees are making good progress with some new growth due to the recent tropical weather. The new fruit is sizing well across the State and growers have a positive outlook for next year's crop. Harvest of Valencia oranges was completed, except for limited amounts to fresh squeeze plants.

We encourage all subscribers of this report to consider receiving it by e-mail. To do so, log onto: http://www.nass.usda.gov/Statistics_by_State/Florida/Subscribe_to_FL_Reports/index.asp. Select Florida Crop-Weather. Enter your first and last name. Enter your Email address. Click on Subscribe. The report will be sent automatically each week. Or you may call us at 800/344-6277 and we will enter the subscription for you.